


CRNE



BULLETIN

Keeping You Informed

The purpose of the CRNE is to protect the public by ensuring that nurses entering practice in Canada possess the competencies (i.e., knowledge, abilities, skills, attitudes and judgment) required to practice safely and effectively.

In order to succeed in passing the CRNE, a candidate must achieve a certain standard. This bulletin describes how that standard (pass mark) is set and how the questions on the CRNE are scored.

STANDARD SETTING – PASS MARK

The standard is set in reference to the content and the level of difficulty of the questions on the CRNE. This work is done by a panel of subject matter experts (the CRNE Examination Committee), who represent each provincial/territorial jurisdiction that uses the CRNE. This examination committee rates the CRNE questions on the basis of the expected performance of a beginner registered nurse at the point of entry into practice.

In the process of rating the questions, the examination committee also considers a variety of relevant criteria to ensure that the standard candidates will be required to achieve on the CRNE is valid and fair. These criteria may include information on the preparation of new graduates, data on the performance of candidates on previous administrations of the CRNE, and pertinent research findings.

Based on all of this information, a point that represents the required standard is set on a measurement scale. The standard is set as the specific score necessary to pass that particular version of the

CRNE STANDARD SETTING AND SCORING

This bulletin is the fifth of a series to keep you informed of issues related to the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination (CRNE). It provides information about the method of establishing the pass mark for the CRNE and the scoring of the CRNE.

CRNE. The CRNE Council and the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) then approve the standard. The CRNE Council consists of representatives from each nursing regulatory body in the jurisdictions that use the exam.

In recent years, the standard required to pass the CRNE (converted here to a percentage for ease of referencing) has ranged from about 59 per cent to 68 per cent, depending on the difficulty of the particular version of the CRNE. However, the standard required on future versions of the CRNE may not necessarily fall within that range. Again, the standard is set in reference to the content and level of difficulty of the questions that appear on the particular version of the CRNE that the candidate is writing. To ensure fairness, the different versions of the CRNE are statistically equated so that all candidates from year to year are measured against a comparable standard.

SCORING THE CRNE


The scoring of the CRNE is carried out under the direction of CNA. The multiple-choice questions on the CRNE are computer scored, and there is only one correct or best answer for each question.

The short answer questions on the CRNE are marked by content experts, working in teams, who are provided a scoring key for each question. Each short answer question is worth a maximum of three points. The scoring key used by the content experts to guide the marking process is structured in terms of a 0-1-2-3 point system. For example, in a short answer question that asks the candidate to provide three responses, the candidate must provide three responses that match three of the possible answers listed in the scoring key to receive all 3 points. If only two responses match the listed answers in the scoring key, 2 points are given for the question. If only one response matches, 1 point is given. If none of the responses matches the listed answers in the scoring key, no points are given. It is important that examination candidates adhere to instructions on how to respond to short answer questions, because a failure to follow instructions may result in no points being given for one or more questions.

A multiple-choice question and a short answer question have the same weight on the CRNE. Therefore, obtaining a score of 3 on a short answer question is equivalent to providing the correct response to one multiple-choice question.

The candidate's results on the multiple-choice and the short answer questions are combined for a total score on the CRNE. If the total score is lower than the standard, a "fail" result will be assigned; if the total score is equal to or higher than the standard, a "pass" result will be assigned.

CRNE results are sent to provincial or territorial regulatory authorities within eight to 12 weeks following the writing of the CRNE. The regulatory authority will then mail the results to candidates; the length of time it takes for candidates to receive results varies depending on the regulatory authority and the mailing time required.



The CRNE Bulletin is published by the Regulatory Policy department of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA).

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